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Chairman: Mr. Caluska ..... (Czech Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 106: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/C.3/54/L.10 and L.12)

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.10

1. **Ms. Enkhtsetseg** (Mongolia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.10 on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Guyana, Israel, Malaysia, Malta, Namibia, the Russian Federation, Senegal, the Sudan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, said that the importance of education and literacy was universally recognized. Without an education, people could not work productively, care for their health, support their families, or live culturally enriched lives. Illiteracy made it difficult for people to interact in society in a spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance and gender equality among all peoples and groups. The denial of education harmed the cause of democracy and social progress and, by extension, international peace and security.

2. The 1990 World Conference on Education for All had marked the emergence of an international consensus that education was the single most vital element in combating poverty, empowering women, protecting children from exploitation, promoting human rights and democracy, protecting the environment and influencing population growth.

3. Progress towards education for all had been much slower than anticipated, however, as the mid-decade review in June 1996 had revealed. Disparities between the privileged and the poor had widened, and with them, the threat of social instability and civil conflict, giving rise to an even greater need for education as an investment to promote peace, prosperity and human rights.

4. As pointed out in the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report *The State of the World's Children 1999*, more than 130 million children in developing countries, including 73 million girls, were growing up without access to basic education. The world could no longer afford such an enormous waste of human potential. The international community must take decisive action to reverse that trend.

5. The sponsors of the draft resolution believed that it would command the widest support of the Committee.

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.12

6. **Mrs. Elisha** (Benin), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.12 on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ghana, Liberia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines, Senegal and Thailand, noted that since the celebration of the International Year of the Family in 1994, a number of world conferences had been held on family-related topics. Many of the recommendations of those conferences sought to strengthen the family. The draft resolution was meant to be a reminder of the importance of the International Year of the Family and of the need to keep the objectives of the Year in focus.

7. Paragraph 3 had been revised to read: "*Urges* Governments to continue to take sustained action at all levels, including the conduct of studies and applied research on families and, in particular, to promote the role of families in development, and invites Governments to develop concrete measures and approaches to address family issues as a matter of national priority".

8. Paragraph 6 should read: "*Invites* the Commission for Social Development, when adopting its next multi-year programme of work, to consider undertaking a review of the global situation of families in 2004".

9. Paragraph 7 should read: "*Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council on appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council".

Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/54/3, A/54/69-E/1999/8 and A/54/69/Add.1-E/1999/8/Add.1, A/54/289 and A/54/340; A/C.3/54/2; A/C.3/54/L.3, L.4, L.5 and L.6)

Agenda item 108: International drug control (*continued*) (A/54/3, A/54/186, A/54/293-E/1999/119 and A/54/314-S/1999/942; A/C.3/54/L.7)

10. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and his own delegation, said that drug trafficking and drug abuse had reached such proportions that no State could remain indifferent. The clear link between drug trafficking, terrorism, transnational crime and money-

laundering was particularly disturbing. The role of the United Nations was crucial for strengthening international cooperation.

11. The delegations on whose behalf he was speaking reaffirmed their support for the steps taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and for the work of UNDCP; in particular, they supported UNDCP projects to improve the technical capacity of border services. They hoped that the visit to the Russian Federation of the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in September 1999 would promote the development of cooperation between the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the United Nations.

12. The twentieth special session of the General Assembly in June 1998 had marked a new stage in the struggle against the drug threat. The countries on whose behalf he was speaking reaffirmed their full support for the Political Declaration adopted at the special session and, in particular, the principle of shared responsibility. They were coordinating measures and actions at the national and regional levels to combat the drug threat.

13. The meetings of the council of heads of security bodies and special services of the States members of CIS and of the Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs in September 1999 had considered, among other matters, the implementation of joint measures to combat organized crime and other dangerous crimes in the territories of the CIS countries for the period up to the year 2000, adopted by the Council of Heads of State in May 1996. The CIS countries had adopted national legislation on the basis of the model law on trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances adopted by the parliamentary assembly of CIS countries in November 1997.

14. For several years, a number of CIS States had successfully conducted the "Canal" operation to close off illicit trafficking routes, particularly along the borders of Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. In August 1998, Kazakh and Russian specialists had uncovered over 800 drug crimes and seized 200 kg of narcotics and contraband.

15. In May 1996, in the face of the common threat from drugs in the Central Asian region, a memorandum of understanding to combat illicit drug trafficking and drug use had been signed in Tashkent between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and UNDCP. The Russian Federation had later acceded to the document. At the second meeting of the parties, a protocol had been signed providing for the further expansion of cooperation and for an increase in financial and technical support from UNDCP. During an official visit to Kyrgyzstan by the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, issues of combating the spread of drugs in Central Asia had been discussed. The decisions adopted in September 1999 at the first session of the inter-State commission of the Central Asian economic community had provided for the further development of cooperation in drug control. The CIS countries were also taking steps to establish a legal basis for bilateral cooperation in combating illegal drug trafficking, which had already enabled dozens of international drug routes to be eliminated.

16. The countries on whose behalf he was speaking were prepared to engage in the closest cooperation with the United Nations and specialized agencies and also all other States in order to eliminate illicit drugs.

17. **Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl** (Austria) said that her delegation fully associated itself with the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union.

18. The 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action had established a clear link between drug control, crime prevention and social development. Those linkages should continue to be highlighted. Austria believed that the issues of the prevention of the initial use of psychoactive substances, the necessity for drug-control strategies to address both women and men with equal effect, and social reintegration of drug users should be integrated into the documents for the special session on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.

19. Austria was an entry point for illicit substances into the European Union. It was deeply concerned about the explosive rise in opium production in Afghanistan, and appreciated the efforts being undertaken by UNDCP to strengthen border controls and law-enforcement capacities in neighbouring countries. Her Government, together with Kazakhstan and UNDCP, had organized an international conference on drugs that would involve experts from five Central Asian States as well as the Russian Federation. The purpose was to assess the situation, strengthen cooperation among law-enforcement experts, and exchange information in the area of demand reduction. Austria hoped that others would be inspired to become active in the region.

20. In order to ensure the widest possible participation in the fifth session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Austria had joined other countries in providing support for the participation of the least developed countries. It was concerned about the slow progress of negotiations, and

appealed to the Bureau to exercise leadership to steer the negotiations to a timely conclusion in 2000.

21. Much progress had been made in promoting consensus on additional protocol against the smuggling of migrants, the aim being to penalize the smugglers, not the migrants simply on account of being smuggled. Progress had also been made on how to close loopholes, including smuggling in third countries and questions of definitions; at the next round of formal negotiations, in December 1999, it should be possible to consolidate the informal understandings reached.

22. The Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in Vienna in April 2000, would be a prime occasion to make the Convention and its three protocols operational by forging the necessary technical cooperation links. A high-level segment would allow heads of State and Government, as well as ministers and attorneys-general, to exchange views on the role of the United Nations in crime prevention and technical cooperation, and the technical workshops of the Congress would provide opportunities for sharing good practices and lessons learned on a number of pressing topics.

23. At the twentieth anniversary of the Vienna International Centre, in October 1999, Austria's Secretary of State had announced a special contribution of 6 million Austrian schillings to the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Austria hoped that international cooperation would continue to flourish and that Governments would give the Centre the mandates and means commensurate with the challenges ahead.

24. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) stressed the need to fulfil commitments made at the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, in particular with respect to judicial cooperation, drug trafficking and abuse, chemical precursors and money-laundering. It was encouraging that demand and supply reduction were finally being viewed as interdependent. The incorporation into domestic law of international instruments and other appropriate control measures would provide further impetus to international cooperation. UNDCP should, however, make Africa a budgetary priority, since the continent had become an important transit centre for drug trafficking, with a consequent increase in consumption among young Africans. In that connection, the agreement between UNDCP and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on capacity-building for drug control was a significant development. The Bretton Woods institutions should be urged to help mobilize resources for the OAU drug strategy; the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders must also be accorded the necessary resources.

25. Although neither a producer nor a significant consumer of drugs, Algeria was a transit country. In addition to establishing appropriate institutional mechanisms, his Government had responded to the problem by devising a national anti-drug strategy: to strengthen preventive action; to improve rehabilitation services; to review legislation; and to strengthen control measures. Drug-awareness campaigns had also been conducted by the media and the education system. Algeria was committed to fulfilling its international commitments and would continue to cooperate with the United Nations on drug control.

26. Sustained and concerted international cooperation was essential if the global drug problem was to be tackled effectively. Accordingly, implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime should be furthered. The recent adoption by OAU of a convention on terrorism and of a resolution on the illicit trafficking of firearms revealed the determination of African nations to address the roots of the conflicts and violence afflicting the continent. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime should redouble its efforts so that its task might be completed in time. Moreover, in view of the disastrous impact of corruption on development efforts, his delegation was in favour of the elaboration of an international convention dealing with all aspects of that problem.

27. The fight against drugs and organized crime called for urgent mobilization of political will at a level commensurate with the task at hand. The international community had the responsibility of ensuring that future generations inherited a world of peace, security and solidarity — most importantly, a world without fear.

28. **Mr. Fadaifard** (Islamic Republic of Iran) stressed the deleterious effects of drug trafficking and transnational organized crime on the social cohesion of nations and on the international community as a whole.

29. Despite fortifications on its eastern borders, the country continued to be used as the shortest land route for the transit of narcotics, mostly from producers in Afghanistan to consumers in Europe. His Government continued to invest colossal sums in tackling the problem and was involved in full-scale war against traffickers equipped with the latest military technology. Each year, substantial seizures of narcotics were made. However, the cost in human terms was also great: more than 2,700 law-

enforcement personnel had died over the past 20 years in the war against drug trafficking.

30. Although the measures implemented by his Government had above all benefited consumer countries in Europe, a number of those countries appeared reluctant to meet their responsibilities. Instead, in human-rights forums, they had sought to criticize the Islamic Republic of Iran over its harsh anti-drug measures.

31. Illicit poppy cultivation in Afghanistan — which had reached unprecedented levels over the past year — should be a matter of utmost concern to both the region and the international community. Given that Afghanistan was now the world's main opium producer, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should consider the drug situation in Afghanistan as a matter of priority. The establishment, with the assistance of UNDCP, of a central coordination unit within the secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tehran was a particularly encouraging development. UNDCP could, however, play an even more important role in stimulating regional action against illicit drug trafficking.

32. His delegation was also appreciative of the memorandum of understanding signed between the United Nations and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the need for joint efforts against trafficking. The establishment of a UNDCP office in Tehran was also highly welcome.

33. It was regrettable that the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse (1991-2000) had seen only an increase in the non-medical use of drugs. A further worrying development — in Europe particularly — was the use of the Internet and other media for advertising illicit drugs. Such an activity was not only incompatible with international drug-control treaties; it also could not be justified on the pretext of freedom of expression.

34. His delegation was also concerned that technical issues, such as whether psychotropic substances should be used for medical purposes, should be decided by science and not put to public vote. It was clear that not all Member States agreed on how to tackle the drug problem: even though the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the World Health Organization (WHO) had stipulated that no form of non-medical use was healthy, certain countries, mostly European, continued to prescribe heroin to severely dependent addicts. It was therefore essential that such experiments should be evaluated independently. Double standards in international action against drugs were clearly compromising the well-being of the international community as a whole.

35. His Government was determined to continue its efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking in the region; however, no Government acting alone could hope to combat the drug menace; international cooperation was a prerequisite for success.

36. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that the twentieth special session of the General Assembly had shown that the international community was resolved that the fight against drugs was a global issue requiring an integrated, participatory and cross-border approach. The links between drugs, money-laundering, organized arms trafficking and terrorism could not be overstated, nor could their impact on the food security and economy of developing nations. Not only did drugs have a destabilizing effect; they also compromised the security and territorial integrity of nations and the future of young people. The international fight against drugs was also a fight for democracy, civil rights and peace, as well as a fight against corruption, HIV/AIDS and urban violence.

37. Africa had become a vital link in the chain of transnational organized crime, and a supplier of cannabis to Europe and North America, despite the implementation of numerous regional anti-drug strategies, notably under the auspices of OAU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The report of the Secretary-General (A/54/186) had omitted to mention the considerable follow-up to the special session carried out at various levels in Africa, with UNDCP cooperation.

38. Senegal had been host to the UNDCP regional office since 1995. The country had imposed stringent border controls, and sizeable drug seizures had testified to the efficacity of the measures adopted. With the assistance of UNDCP and other partners, the Government had also furthered the implementation of its national plan of action against drugs. Its main objectives were to strengthen institutional and operational capacities; to improve coordination of control efforts; to intensify preventive action through awareness-raising and educational activities; and to provide for the rehabilitation of addicts. Legislation had been adopted in line with relevant United Nations instruments, and institutional mechanisms had been created, including an inter-ministerial mechanism for ensuring policy coordination and a centralized body for coordinating control activities.

39. Although it was incumbent upon Governments to incorporate international instruments into domestic law, the globalized nature of illicit drug trafficking called for concerted international action — hence the importance of strengthening UNDCP capacities.

40. **Mr. Gal** (Israel) said that the Israeli national police force had modified its policies in the previous two years, resulting in a decrease in the number of severe criminal offenses. The new quality-management method, which required all members of the force to work towards preset objectives and to focus on a defined subject, had brought the steady rise in crime to a halt and even reduced it. To ensure success, performance indicators had been established to measure objectives and achievements. By the year 2000, the entire force would be following that method.

41. During 10 years of dealing with the problem of drugs, Israel had improved its strategies. At the outset, it had applied a multifaceted approach, dividing its resources among the various traditional aspects of anti-drug programmes: prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, community action, law enforcement, and human-resources development. It had later redefined its goals, and had chosen to emphasize prevention and education, with special focus on children. Measures should also be taken to strengthen regional cooperation and improve law enforcement, particularly interdiction. Israel nevertheless continued to believe in a balanced approach, aimed at reducing both demand and supply.

42. The fundamental purpose was to create a social atmosphere that rejected the use of drugs, which included a mass-media climate that condemned both drug use and drug users. That did not mean, however, that care to addicts would be neglected. Efforts were being focused on the development of programmes for children and teenagers at high risk; for young people who were already habitual drug users and addicts; and for occasional users. A guidance centre to document preventive activity, both locally and nationally, was in the planning stages, and computerized prevention programmes were being developed. In addition, two media campaigns were conducted yearly, with a view to altering the public's attitude toward drugs. In the view of Israel, a combination of education, prevention, treatment and law enforcement could serve to curb drug use.

43. The national police maintained fruitful cooperation with other police forces around the world. Israeli legislation had recently been amended to broaden the scope of legal assistance in criminal matters, and now provided for special legal assistance during investigations and the enforcement of forfeiture orders in drug-trafficking offenses. In addition, Israel was in the process of criminalizing money-laundering, with forfeiture of the proceeds.

44. Israel would be glad to share its knowledge in all spheres of the fight against drugs, including prevention among special target groups such as minorities and alienated youth; prisoner and ex-convict rehabilitation; and law enforcement. Israel also, however, required assistance from the international community. Direct support from UNDCP would allow Israel to improve its border-interdiction ability and to replace outdated equipment, thereby drastically reducing the volume of drugs entering the country. Only through regional, subregional and international cooperation could the spread of drugs be stopped.

45. **Mr. Balanandan** (India) said that criminality and globalization were inextricably linked. The collapse of regulatory mechanisms in the face of liberalization and globalization in tandem with the new communications technologies had opened up new vistas for crime. Electronic banking and e-mail commerce would usher in crime cartels which would be difficult to counter unless mechanisms for tracking and punishing offenders were established. Globalized crime required a new approach toward dealing with crime prevention, criminal justice, and the treatment of offenders. In that regard, the twentieth special session of the General Assembly had been a landmark event.

46. Although appreciative of the many efforts undertaken by the United Nations in the war against drugs, India would have welcomed a reference, in the Secretary-General's report on crime prevention and criminal justice (A/54/289), to the meteoric increase in the production of opium in the vicinity of India. The 1999 opium poppy survey conducted by UNDCP had shown that Afghanistan annually produced over 4,500 tons of opium, amounting to 75 per cent of the world's opium production, or equivalent to over 450,000 kilograms of heroin. It represented a farmgate value of over US$ 180 million, a sum which could purchase up to 6 million automatic rifles. The use of drug profits to export fundamentalist terrorism was a heinous abuse of human rights: the Government of India called upon the nations of the world to put a stop to it.

47. No illicit drugs were produced in India, nor was drug abuse a major problem. And yet, India had signed all relevant conventions, on the grounds that relaxed vigilance could impair fundamental freedoms. It had adopted a community-based approach to reducing the demand for drugs, using faith groups, non-governmental organizations and social clubs. It had set up detoxification centres, and drug dealers were dealt with severely. Measures had been taken to monitor borders, control inland trade, and punish money-laundering. Through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Indian Narcotics Control Bureau was working vigorously with its international counterparts to curb the menace of drug use worldwide.

48. **Mr. Amorós Nuñez** (Cuba) said that the immense efforts being undertaken to combat the drug scourge were not succeeding. The extraordinary growth of the world market in illicit drugs had been bolstered by globalization and increased demand. Cuba hoped that the agreements reached at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly would become a solid foundation for genuine international cooperation carried out with respect for international law, the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity , and no use or threat of use of force. Any violation of those precepts would exacerbate violence and chaos in many countries. Cuba reiterated its condemnation of the unilateral actions taken by the world's largest drug-consuming State which, while acting as an arbiter of international conduct, had failed to resolve the problem at home.

49. The Cuban Government was distressed by the growing notion among certain Governments that the struggle against drug trafficking justified violations of national law and the principles of international cooperation. Shared responsibility, a comprehensive view of all phases of production, and the equal treatment of all actors should continue to be guiding principles for relations between States. It was essential for industrialized countries to provide greater contributions to developing countries, so as to allow them to develop feasible mechanisms for fighting drug trafficking. Through the assistance of UNDCP, Cuba had expanded its personnel-training programmes and had consolidated technical and material support. It resolutely supported the work of the International Narcotics Control Board, the only independent competent authority of worldwide scope.

50. Although drug use was not a significant social problem in Cuba, the Government nonetheless contributed to the international effort to combat that scourge. Situated near one of the world's largest centres of drug consumption, Cuba had taken strong measures to prevent the use of its national territory by drug traffickers. In the preceding decades, the Cuban authorities had arrested hundreds of drug traffickers and confiscated dozens of foreign aircraft and boats, 80 per cent of which came from the United States of America. During the first half of 1999 alone, Cuba had seized over 4,500 kilograms of cocaine along its coastline. But the Government's efforts did more than merely prevent the spread of drug use in Cuba: they also greatly assisted consumer countries like the United States, despite immense costs, outdated equipment and a lack of consistent cooperation from that country. Cuba had established bilateral agreements in the area of drug trafficking with 23 countries and was cooperating with the enforcement agencies of 13 more.

51. In July 1999, the Government had submitted an official proposal to the United States Government, stating that it was willing to cooperate at the current level or at higher levels, and that in any event Cuba would continue to carry out its moral responsibility to the international community. There should be no half measures in the fight against drugs: they must be eradicated or they would erode the foundations of human civilization.

52. **Mr. Tudela** (Peru) said that although Peru agreed with the statement made by the coordinator of the Rio Group, it believed that a permanent commitment to the elimination of drug trafficking should be reaffirmed. Translating its principles into action, the Government had established national mechanisms both for interdiction and for alternative-development projects. Drug trafficking was indeed a complex problem: it encouraged consumers to commit crimes, criminalized peasants involved in drug production, violated international safeguards and undermined international security. Traffickers threatened, and sought to corrupt, public authorities and murdered public officials. Drug trafficking was linked to terrorism, declared war on the whole society, and was practised on such a vast scale that it affected the international financial system.

53. The decision to share responsibility among producers and consumers was a positive new development, and should serve to accord all strategical elements their due importance: interdiction, alternative development, protection of the environment, chemical use, and the cooperation of the courts. Between 1985 and 1990, the production of coca in Peru had risen dramatically; since that time, through internal pacification, the Government had succeeded in cutting production by half. It believed that a resurgence of coca plantations could be avoided by expanding and strengthening alternative development. It was seeking to develop secure production systems that would combine farming and forestry, with emphasis on crop rotation. Peru profoundly believed that breaking the production chain of cocaine, the most lucrative drug, was the best way to halt the drug traffic. To that end, it was endeavouring to teach peasants legal productive uses of tropical land.

54. A group of donors, meeting in Brussels in November 1998, had allocated US$ 300 million for alternative development; Peru had proposed a new meeting to be held in December 1999 in Paris. That was an important moment for Peru, which for the first time had achieved a consensus among all parties as to the importance of its alternative-development projects. The Government was working to meet

its deadlines and to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session.

55. **Mr. Omeish** (Jordan) said that greater international, regional and national efforts were needed to combat the drug problem, which had been exacerbated in that the development of modern communications had facilitated the traffic in drugs, as well as their manufacture and distribution. Fully aware of the drug problem, which had a corrosive impact on society and on the economy, Jordan devoted much attention to maintaining its status quo as neither a producer nor a consumer of drugs, and coordinated efforts with other countries in the quest to eliminate the drug traffic.

56. To that end, it had established a national committee as part of a comprehensive strategy to combat drugs and to develop relevant legislation. A special department, operating through the media and by means of seminars and lectures, sought to raise public awareness of the drug scourge and encourage local communities to take preventive steps. Within the limits of its resources, Jordan was also doing its utmost to provide the best possible treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts. Moreover, it engaged in regional and international cooperation to exchange information on drug trafficking and to coordinate joint anti-drug efforts, and took part in international conferences on the subject. He reaffirmed Jordan's support for all efforts, including the elaboration of international agreements, to eliminate the scourge of drugs from the world, to which end it offered its full cooperation.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.